

Message Text

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P 162129Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

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PLEASE PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIXY LEE RAY

FOL REPEAT OF ROME 5456 TO SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS THE HAGUE EC BRUSSELS OECD PARIS
NRC BETHESDA ERDA GERMANTOWN APR 14

QTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 5456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: LICENSES FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3268; (B) STATE 081747

1. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 14 COURTESY CALL BY ECON/COMM
MINISTER, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (MOI) DG FOR ENERGY SOURCES
AND HEAVY INDUSTRY AMMASSARI CHARACTERIZED US SUSPENSION
OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL LICENSING AS "MISTAKE." AMMASSARI
ASKED WHEN SHIPMENTS WOULD BE RESUMED, AND IF ERDA-
HUDGINS VISIT WAS CONNECTED WITH SUSPENSION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING INITIAL CALL BY ECON/COMM MINISTER, NEW
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY DG FOR ENERGY SOURCES AMMASSARI
ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF US SUSPENSION, AS WIDELY
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REPORTED IN ITALIAN PRESS, OF ENRICHED URANIUM SHIPMENTS

TO EUROPE. WE NOTED CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS HANDLING PROCEDURES, AND POINTED OUT THAT (A) NO EMBARGO INVOLVED, AND (B) SUSPENSION PROBABLY DUE ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS INVOLVED IN REVIEWING PROCEDURES AND INDIVIDUAL EXPORT LICENSES. AMMASSARI NOTED US FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND CALLED SUSPENSION A "MISTAKE" WHICH INEVITABLY RAISES QUESTION OF US RELIABILITY AS SUPPLIER ENRICHED URANIUM. SUSPENSION, CONTINUED AMMASSARI, SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY; PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS COULD HAVE BEEN IRONED OUT WHILE

SHIPMENTS CARRIED OUT ON NORMAL BASIS, OR AT A MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPLANATION. COMMENT: THESE POINTS ALREADY RAISED IN ITALIAN PRESS, WHICH QUOTES FROM SIMONET'S AIDE MEMOIRE (REFTEL A). HIDDEN US MOTIVES CITED IN ARTICLES INCLUDE ALLEGED US DESIRE TO DISCIPLINE EUROPEANS FOR LACK OF ACCEPTANCE OF US ENERGY STRATEGY. END COMMENT.

3. NOTING THAT SUPPLIES FOR ITALIAN REACTOR AT TRINO VERCELLESE INVOLVED, AMMASSARI ASKED WHEN SHIPMENTS WOULD BE RESUMED. WE TOLD HIM OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF HUDGINS DELEGATION (REF B) AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT CLARIFICATIONS MAY BE AVAILABLE DURING VISIT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT MATTER COULD BE RAISED DURING INITIAL MEETING OF BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP IN EARLY MAY IF MATTER NOT RESOLVED BY THAT TIME.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOI.BEAUDRY UNQTE KISSINGER

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